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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,897	12/21/2000	Yoshihiro Satoh	JA999745	2636

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Blanche E. Schiller, Esq.
HESLIN & ROTHENBERG, P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203

EXAMINER

MAHMOUDI, HASSAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/745,897

Applicant(s)

SATO, YOSHIHIRO

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DOV POPOVICI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities:

In figure 1, boxes **10** and **14** need to be labeled. Correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 5 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 5 begins with “a communication system” which is indicative of an independent claim but in line 2 it refers to “the computer system according to claim 4” which signals its dependence on claim 4.

Applicant is required to either cancel claim 5, or amend the claim to place the claim in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim in independent form.

For the purpose of examination within this office action, the examiner has treated claim 5 as a dependent of claim 4 as shown below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bapat et al (U.S. patent No. 6,236,996.)

As to claim 1, Bapat et al teaches a computer system for controlling access to data to be used in common by multiple users (see Abstract, and see column 32, lines 35-42), comprising:

data storage for storing the data in common (see column 7, lines 37-38, and see column 32, lines 37-40);

an access management table including access management data to control an access right to the data in common (see column 3, lines 31-41, where “access management table” is read on “permission table”); and

control means (see column 3, lines 15-17) for updating the access management data in the access management table (see column 4, lines 53-54, and see column 8, lines 35-40), in response to communication (see column 16, lines 55-61), in which reference information to the data in common are included, from a first user who is authorized to grant an access right to the data to a second user (see column 10, lines 11-15, and see column 16, line 62 through column 17, line 5, and see column 17, lines 42-46.)

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As to claim 2, Bapat et al teaches wherein the access management data in the access management table (see column 3, lines 31-41, where “access management table” is read on “permission table”) includes identification information for data to be accessed (see column 3, lines 26-30, where “identification information for data to be accessed” is read on “management information for corresponding managed objects”), identification information for the second user to whom the access right to the data has been granted (see column 3, lines 41-45), and access level information (see column 12, line 58 through column 13, line 3.)

As to claim 3, Bapat et al teaches wherein the access management data in the access management table (see column 3, lines 31-41, where “access management table” is read on “permission table”) includes identification information for the first user who grants the access right (see column 16, lines 40-49, and see column 17, lines 42-46.)

As to claim 4, Bapat et al teaches wherein the control means (see column 3, lines 15-17) updates the access management data (see column 4, lines 53-54, and see column 8, lines 35-40) in response to a command (see column 18, lines 1-9) that is issued during the communication (see column 16, lines 55-61.)

As to claim 5, Bapat et al teaches the computer system further comprising:
a plurality of user terminals for communicating with the computer system (see column 16, lines 58-61, where “plurality of user terminals” is read on “user workstations 300”.)

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As to claims 6 and 7, Bapat et al teaches wherein the control means updates the access management data (see column 7, lines 8-17) in response to a command that 's issued during the communication (see column 18, lines 1-9.)

As to claim 8, Bapat et al teaches a communication system (see Abstract, and see column 7, lines 39-41) comprising:

a computer system for controlling access to data to be used in common by multiple users (see Abstract, and see column 32, lines 35-42), comprising:

data storage for storing the data in common (see column 7, lines 37-38, and see column 32, lines 37-40);

an access management table including access management data to control an access right to the data in common (see column 3, lines 31-41, where "access management table" is read on "permission table"); and

control means (see column 3, lines 15-17) for updating the access management data in the access management table (see column 4, lines 53-54, and see column 8, lines 35-40), in response to communication (see column 16, lines 55-61), in which reference information to the data in common are included, from a first user who is authorized to grant an access right to the data to a second user (see column 10, lines 11-15, and see column 16, line 62 through column 17, line 5, and see column 17, lines 42-46); and

a plurality of user terminals for communicating with the computer system (see column 16, lines 58-61, where "plurality of user terminals" is read on "user workstations 300".)

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of art with respect to methods and systems database access control and database user authentication in general:

U.S. Patent No. 5,787,428 to Hart.

U.S. Patent No. 6,032,216 to Schmuck et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,047,288 to Kurosawa et al.


U.S. Patent No. 6,338,082 to Schneider.

6. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4887. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

tm

November 12, 2002


DOV POPOVICI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100